THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) the post of part-time Chairman of Air India Limited has never been vacant. Presently the same has been held by Shri K. Roy Paul, Secretary (CA) who was appointed as part-time chairman *w.e.f.* 10.4.2002. The post of Managing Director, Air India became vacant on 01st December 2001 consequent upon the superannuation of shri M.P. Mascarenhas. Shri J.N. Gogoi, Deputy Managing Director, Air India has been holing the additional charge of the Managing Director, Air India *w.e.f.* 1.12.2001. The process for filling up the post of MD, Air India on regular basis has already been started.

Development Projects in Assam

1343. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects taken up for development of Civil Aviation in Assam during the last three years, till date:

(b) the details of the projects completed/under progress and likely to be completed during the above period;

(c) the total amount of funds sanctioned/released and utilized for each project so far; and

(d) the effective measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Following projects undertaken by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) during the last three years in Assam have been completed/undertaken:

GUWAHATI—Expansion and modification of Terminal building, strengthening of existing runway and associated pavements to make it suitable for B-747 class of aircarft—Rs. 55.18 crores was sanctioned and Rs. 48.94 crores was released and utilized;

JORHAT—Construction of new link taxi-way—Rs. 1.09 crores was sanctioned and Rs. 0.95 crore was released and utilized;

LILABARI—Strengthening and extension of runway from 5400 ft. to 7500 ft. and allied works to make it suitable for AB-320 class of aircraft,

construction of new terminal building complex to cater to 400 passengers at a time and boundary wall around operational area—Rs. 30.23 crores was sanctioned and Rs. 28.89 croers was released and utilized:

SILCHAR—Acquisition of land for runway extension and strengthening of apron and taxiway—Rs. 2.86 crores was sanctioned and Rs. 1.11 crores was released and utilized;

TEZPUR—Construction of new civil enclave terminal building, civil apron & link taxiway, installation of DVOR/DME and allied works—Rs. 23.48 crores was sanctioned and Rs. 20.25 crores was released and utilized. Besides, the projects of construction of perimeter road and boundary wall around the newly acquired land at Guwahati at a sanctioned cast of Rs. 3.63 crores is in progress for which Rs. 1.33 crores have been released so far.

(d) Progress of work of all the projects are closely monitored at Regional levels as well as at corporate level for timely completion.

Privatisation of Ground Handling of I.A., A.I. and Alliance Air

1344. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal for privatisation of ground handling operations of Indian Airlines, Air India and Alliance Air at various airports:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the estimated cost being incurred by these Airlines on ground handling of these airlines per month; and

(d) whether the privatisation of ground handling of these airlines at various airports will improve the quality of service, and if so, by when the proposal to privatise ground handling system will be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.